

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 12, wherein the upper and lower discs (6, 8) are circular.

Claim 4 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 12, wherein the lower disc (9) is thicker than the upper disc (6).

Claim 5 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 12, wherein the hole (12) of the lower disc (8) is conical.

Claims 6 and 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 13, wherein a stepped torsion protector (32) is provided in the calotte bearing (30).

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 12, wherein a plurality of units are provided as an extension for supporting one or several vertebrae.

Claim 11 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system according to Claim 10, wherein a bending zone (14) is provided between adjacent units.

Claim 12 (currently amended) In a spinal column support system, comprising a bone screw(16), a plate or rod arrangement (2) having at least one opening (4) in which the bone screw (16) is displaceable, upper and lower rotatable fixing discs (6, 8) that are positioned at a spaced distance one above the other with respect to the plate or rod (2), each fixing element comprising an eccentrically disposed hole (10, 12) through which the bone screw (16) passes;

the improvement comprising, said upper and lower rotatable fixing discs (6,8) located in plate or rod (2) in a displaceable manner to allow free movement and rotation thereof, the hole of the lower fixing disc 8 being formed in a conical manner, the bone screw (16) having a lower shaft part (20) and an upper part (18) formed in a multi-axial manner so that the upper and lower parts (18, 20) of the bone screw (16) are rotationally movable and inclinable ~~moveable~~ with respect to each other, ~~and said upper and lower rotatable fixing discs~~

~~(6,8) located in plate or rod (2) in a displaceable manner to allow free movement thereof, wherein the bone screw lower shaft part 20 includes a spherical head 22 on the upper end, and wherein[,] the bone screw upper part (18) is adapted to be screwed into the plate or rod arrangement (2) and includes a spherical receptacle in its lower end for accommodating the spherical head 22 of the lower shaft part 20, which spherical receptacle is received and locked in the conical hole of the lower fixed disc~~ said lower part (20) of the bone screw includes a spherical head (22) on its upper end which is received within the said spherical receptacle in a rotationally moveable manner.

Claim 13 (previously presented) In a spinal column support system as defined in claim 12 and further including a calotte bearing (30) beneath the spherical head (22) for receiving the upper end of the bone screw shaft part (2) so that the said bone screw shaft part is freely moveable in the calotte bearing in a conical or pyramid-like manner.

Claim 14 (currently amended) In a spinal column support system as defined in claim 12, wherein the upper part of the bone screw (18) is an ~~adjusting~~ clamping screw provided with a thread on its end opposite the bone screw shaft (20) and is attached by means of a nut (24).